

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-01
ACDA-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 EPG-02 COME-00
DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07
OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /121 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4029
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
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FROM LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: DLOS
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S STATEMENT: MONDAY, JUNE
13, 1977 3:15 PM

1. FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT MADE TO PRESS CONFERENCE AT UN
AFTERNOON OF JUNE 13 BY AMB. RICHARDSON. TRANSCRIPT OF
CONFERENCE INCLUDING Q. AND A. SHIPPED SEPARATELY.

QUOTE

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 1977, 3:15 P.M.

IT IS NO SECRET THAT MANY OF THE DELEGATES TO THIS
SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE HAVE INDICATED
THAT THEY ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT MORE PROGRESS HAS NOT BEEN
MADE THUS FAR. CERTAINLY, THAT IS THE FEELING OF THE
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UNITED STATES DELEGATION.

SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES REMAIN TO BE RECONCILED.
BUT DESPITE THAT FACT, THERE STILL EXISTS AMONG THE DELE-
GATES A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE,
AND THE CLIMATE OF DISCUSSION REMAINS CONSTRUCTIVE. THUS,
THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A COMPROMISE CAN BE REACHED

ON A SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION, AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH OTHERS TO THAT END.

DESPITE THE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF MINISTER JENS EVENSEN DURING THIS PAST THREE WEEKS OF DAY AND NIGHT SESSIONS, THE INTERIM DRAFT TEXT THAT RESULTED FROM THESE PROCEEDINGS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US, WE ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, THAT MR. EVENSEN WILL BE SUBMITTING A NEW DRAFT AND THAT, BASED ON IT, DISCUSSIONS WILL SHORTLY RESUME.

THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE ITS OBJECTIONS TO THE EXISTING DRAFT CLEARLY KNOWN, AS HAVE MOST OTHER DELEGATIONS, OUR DIFFICULTIES FALL MAINLY INTO FOUR AREAS:

1. THE TEXT DESCRIBES A SYSTEM OF ACCESS WHICH SEEMS TO GIVE THE AUTHORITY POTENTIALLY LIMITLESS POWERS; AND COULD RESULT IN INSUFFICIENT ASSURANCE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINING BY STATES AND THEIR NATIONSLS.

2. IT LEAVES OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF FINANCIAL BURDENS ON MINING OPERATIONS THAT WOULD DETER OR PREVENT SEABED DEVELOPMENT.

3. IT ARTIFICIALLY LIMITS PRODUCTION OF SEABED MINERALS, IN A FASHION MORE STRINGENT THAN IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT CURRENT LAND-BASED PRODUCERS OF THESE MINERALS.

4. IT GIVES POWERS TO THE AUTHORITY WHICH COULD LEAD TO GRANTING ACCESS TO THE SEABEDS ON POLITICAL, UNCLASSIFIED

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RATHER THAN ECONOMIC, GROUNDS.

THIS IS CERTAINLY NOT A COMPLETE LIST OF THE REASONS WE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE INTERIM DRAFT, BUT IT IS INDICATIVE OF THE PROBLEMS WE FACE.

WE ENTERED THIS NEGOTIATING SESSION BELIEVING THAT THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF A COMPROMISE WERE DISCERNIBLE. THE KEY TO SUCH A COMPROMISE SEEMED TO BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PRACTICAL SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT, IN ADDITION TO DEVELOPED COUNTRY MINERS, THE ENTERPRISE AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN SEABED RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

LAST WEEK, THE UNITED STATES SUBMITTED A PROPOSA WHICH DESCRIBED IN DETAIL WAYS IN WHICH THE ENTERPRISE COULD BE FINANCED. THAT PLAN, COPIES OF WHICH ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU, SHOULD DEMONSTRATE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN REACHING A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT. WE ARE STILL HOPEFUL THAT THIS DEMONSTRATION

THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEABEDS CAN INDEED BE AN
UNDERTAKING OF ALL MANKIND WILL LEAD TO AGREEMENT ON A
GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION.

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